

GOLDFIELDS WATER SUPPLY



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Dedication Ceremony Program
International Historic Civil Engineering Landmark Award
Mundaring Weir, Tuesday 20 October 2009



GOLDFIELDS WATER SUPPLY

INTERNATIONAL HISTORIC CIVIL ENGINEERING LANDMARK

Today the Goldfields Water Supply (GWS) scheme will be dedicated an international historic civil engineering landmark.

The American Society of Civil Engineers is making the dedication under its History and Heritage Program, after the scheme was nominated by the WA Division of Engineers Australia on behalf of Engineering Heritage Australia.

It is only the third engineering project in Australia to receive this prestigious accolade, the others being the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme. The Eiffel Tower, the Golden Gate Bridge and the Panama Canal are other notable historic civil engineering international landmarks.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The GWS scheme is considered to be one of the greatest hydraulic engineering works in the world. Originally known as the Coolgardie Water Supply scheme, its importance to the economic development and culture of both Western Australia and Australia cannot be overemphasised.

The Public Works Department (PWD) built the scheme between 1895-1903 under the direction of Western Australia's first Engineer-in-Chief Charles Yelverton O'Connor, until his sad death in 1902. The Engineer-in-Charge of the project was Thomas C. Hodgson.

Works involved the construction of Mundaring Weir – a 21 billion litre storage reservoir in the Perth hills – and eight steam pumping stations to pump the water through a 566 km long steel pipeline. When completed, it was the longest fresh water pipeline in the world and the first major pipeline to be constructed of steel.

Following the introduction of electric arc welding in the late 1920s and when water losses from leaks reached record levels in 1932-33, the pipeline was raised above ground and made into a continuously welded conduit under the direction of PWD Northam District Engineer Norman Fernie.

After World War II ended in 1945, the GWS was extended to service farms and communities in the Eastern Wheatbelt and became the Goldfields and Agricultural Water Supply (G&AWS).

The scheme still operates today and this lifeline to the Goldfields is continuously upgraded to meet demand and maintain its status as a world class water supply.

DEDICATION CEREMONY PROGRAM

- 1. Acknowledgement of Traditional Ownership**
- 2. Anthems of the United States of America and Australia**
 - *The choir of the Holy Spirit Primary School, City Beach, Conductor, Mrs Julie Doyle*
- 3. Formal welcome and recognition of distinguished guests**
 - *Mr Don Young FIEAust, Chairman of the Engineering Heritage Panel of Engineers Australia, WA Division.*
 - *Introduction by Mr Young of Mr Owen Peake HonFIEAust CPEng, Chairman, Engineering Heritage Australia*
- 4. Engineers Australia nomination for an International Historic Civil Engineering Landmark Award**
 - *Mr Owen Peake*
- 5. ASCE's IHCEL Program**
 - *Mr Potenciano Leoncio Jr P.E ph, M.ASCE Regional Director, American Society of Civil Engineers*
- 6. Engineering Heritage Australia's Heritage Recognition Program and recognition of GWS engineers and other employees**
 - *Mr Peter Godfrey FIEAust CPEng, National President, Engineers Australia*
- 7. Unveiling of plaque**
 - *Mrs Sue Murphy FIEAust CPEng, Chief Executive Officer, Water Corporation of Western Australia, and Mr Potenciano Leoncio, American Society of Civil Engineers*
- 8. Acceptance of plaque**
 - *Mrs Sue Murphy*
- 9. Presentation of Norman Fernie's Chapman Medal**
 - *Mr Chris Fitzhardinge FIEAust CPEng, President, Engineers Australia, WA Division invites Mr Geoff Fernie FIEAust CPEng, to present his father's Chapman Medal to Engineers Australia WA Division*
- 10. Song – C.Y. O'Connor, I Wish You Were Here**
 - *Choir of the Holy Spirit Primary School*
- 11. Closing remarks** – *Mr Owen Peake*

Lunch at the Mundaring Weir Hotel

The Goldfields Water Supply Dedication Ceremony
was arranged by:

- American Society of Civil Engineers (www.asce.org)
- Water Corporation (www.watercorporation.com.au)
- Engineers Australia (www.engineersaustralia.org.au)
and (www.wa.engineersaustralia.org.au).



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